



Welcome Back!

As the new school year begins -- for those of you on a traditional calendar -- I send greetings and a welcome. As you may know, I have been entrusted with social studies again here at the USOE, and I look forward to supporting your efforts in providing outstanding social studies education to Utah students. I want to take this opportunity to thank Tom Sutton for his excellent service as the social studies specialist and wish him all the best.

If you have ideas or comments on the newsletter, or resources you wish to share with your fellow educators, please drop me a line at robert.austin@schools.utah.gov

Have a great year!

-- Robert Austin, USOE

Constitution Day September 17!



The rule of law is the foundation upon which this incredible American experiment in republican democracy has been built. We have an opportunity and obligation to teach about the US Constitution every year when Constitution Day arrives on September 17. Ever since the late Senator Robert Byrd sponsored the legislation to make Constitution Day a Federal mandate, incredible resources have been created to support educators.

Here are resources that were put together this summer: <http://www.uen.org/Lessonplan/LPview.cgi?core=4>

Look for The American Bill of Rights, Happy Birthday Constitution, and Brainstorm the Bill of Rights as some of the examples.

Here is a link to the National Endowment for the Humanities:

http://edsitement.neh.gov/ConstitutionDay/constitution_index2.html

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor has a person commitment to providing outstanding civics education:

<http://www.icivics.org/>

Constitution Day Forum: A Seminar for Utah Educators

Presented by The Hinckley Institute of Politics and America's Freedom Alliance <http://www.utahconstitutionday.org/>

This seminar for Utah teachers and educators provides information and insights to assist in the teaching of American History and our Constitution.

UTAH SENATOR ROBERT BENNETT will be one of the featured speakers and will be joined by other experts to discuss teaching the Constitution of the United States.

The free seminar will be held Saturday, September 18th 2010 at 10am to noon in the LDS Tabernacle on Temple Square. Tickets limited to 4 per order.

The Environment and the Economy Institute October 24-27



Attention junior high through high school social studies teachers!

The Environment and the Economy is a four-day workshop to help teachers better understand environmental economics issues and teaching methods. No registration fee. Substitute expenses for Utah teachers will be paid up to \$80/day.

October 24 – 27, 2010 The workshop starts Sunday, October 24 at 1:00 p.m. and ends Wednesday, October 27, at 2:30 p.m.

Snowbird Resort, Utah. Double occupancy lodging and some meals will be provided.

Sign up! Registration is limited! <http://www.fte.org/teacher-programs/environment-the-economy/application-request/>

Next Saturday Seminar November 13

Mark your calendar for this year's first Saturday Seminar, a perennial favorite for social studies educators. The fall seminar will be held November 13 this year. More info on the plans as they come together.

Vote 18: A Great Resource as the Election Year Heats Up

Marilyn Bown of the League of Women Voters writes *"As members of the League of Women Voters (www.lwv.org), we are interested in bringing Vote 18, an interactive one-day lesson plan, to all Utah high school seniors enrolled in U. S. Government and Citizenship. Vote 18 (www.Vote18.org) has been presented to more than 21,000 students in the U. S. since 2004. By experiencing the economic and social impacts of voting through a classroom action lab, these students learn the power and relevance of voting.*

According to Benjamin Franklin, 'Citizens in a democracy aren't born, they are made.' Therefore, we wish to provide the one-day Vote 18 lesson plan to high school seniors through you, social studies district specialists, and individual teachers. We also plan to staff an informational booth at UEA and provide a session for the semi-annual Social Studies forums. If teachers are interested in our bringing the lesson into the classroom, we have willing volunteers.

<http://www.vote18.org/>

And speaking of women voters...

The New York Times had a fascinating article in their August 24 issue commemorating the 90th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment. An excerpt, showing how something that is now taken for granted is really such a hard-fought right: *President Woodrow Wilson, who had been a genteel but firm anti-suffragist, was indebted to female voters for helping him win a close election, and in 1918 he endorsed a constitutional amendment. That year the 19th Amendment passed the House. It stalled in the Senate — blocked by conservative Southerners — but Wilson muscled it through in 1919.*

Thirty-six of the 48 states then needed to ratify it. Western states did so promptly, and in the North only Vermont and Connecticut delayed. But the segregated South saw in the 19th Amendment a grave threat: the removal of the most comprehensive principle for depriving an entire class of Americans of full citizenship rights. The logic of women's disenfranchisement helped legitimize relegating blacks to second-class citizenship.

Female voters would also pose practical difficulties, described bluntly by a Mississippi man: "We are not afraid to maul a black man over the head if he dares to vote, but we can't treat women, even black women, that way. No, we'll allow no woman suffrage."

Nine Southern states joined by Delaware forced ratification to a halt, one state short. Only Tennessee was left, and the opposition had good reason to think it would line up with the rest of the region. But after a nine-day special session in the heat of August 1920, a legislator pledged to the nays jumped ship — he later said it was because his mother told him to — and the 36th state was in.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/25/opinion/25stansell.html?scp=1&sq=a%20forgotten%20fight%20for%20suffrage&st=cse>

Enjoy Constitution Day, and share some of your favorite passages with your students.